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## Items of Interest:

**Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) marked its 163rd anniversary August 31.** According to the BUMED Office of the Historian, by the late 1830s, the Secretary of the Navy was overwrought with duties and decided to delegate responsibilities to clerks who could perform these jobs. On August 31, 1842, Congress passed a Navy appropriations bill that provided for the creation of five bureaus headed by a Chief who was appointed by the President. BUMED was one of those bureaus. Chief, BUMED was selected from among the best Navy surgeons. At that time, the Chief's salary was \$2,500 per year. The salary was so low that many Chiefs, until 1910, had to maintain an active civilian medical practice to earn a living. To learn more about the history of BUMED, visit <https://navymedicine.med.navy.mil/bumed/>.

# Navy and Marine Corps Medical News

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## CNO Awards Pensacola Corpsman Purple Heart

**By Journalist 1st Class (AW) Russ Tafuri, Naval Hospital Pensacola Public Affairs**

**PENSACOLA, Fla.** - Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Mike Mullen presented the Purple Heart to Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Jonathan D. Bryant Aug. 19 during an all-hands call at the Naval Aviation Memorial Chapel aboard Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla.

Bryant received the decoration - one of the world's oldest military decorations still awarded today - for injuries he received in combat while serving his second tour of duty as a corpsman with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) in May 2004. He was wounded while assisting injured Marines during a prolonged

gun battle in Western Iraq.

"This Sailor's action says a lot about the Navy and Marine Corps team," Mullen said. "There's no more responsible group, especially while in the field, than that of hospital corpsmen. The Marines you served with will remember you for years to come."

"I would do everything they (Marines) would do. I'm basically a Marine with a Navy nameplate is what they used to tell me," Bryant said. "The only difference was that I have the medical knowledge."

On May 14, 2004, Bryant and his platoon were patrolling the streets of Husaybah, Iraq, when the

*(Continued on page 3)*



**SASEBO, Japan** - Military personnel and a Japanese contractor observe U.S. Navy Dentist Lt. Howard Polansky, center, as he measures a needle to see how far it probed into a tooth during an emergency root canal on a military working dog named "Dollar" at the on base veterinary clinic aboard Fleet Activities Sasebo. Dollar, a three-year-old German Shepherd, was injured during a patrol training session with an arm sleeve. Military working dogs are privileged to many of the same health and retirement benefits as their human counterparts. *U.S. Navy photograph by Photographer's Mate Airman Stephanie Lynne Johnson*

## Navy Dental Corps Celebrates 93 Years of Service

By Mary Kate Zabroske, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Public Affairs Office

**WASHINGTON** - Navy Medicine celebrated the Dental Corps' 93<sup>rd</sup> anniversary Aug. 22, paying special recognition to the men and women of the Dental Corps who are stationed overseas and forward deployed.

"We recognize those people who are away from home, serving around the world, doing what we all put the uniform on to do," said Capt. Howard H. Fischer, Deputy Chief, Navy Dental Corps.

A Dental Corps Ball was one of the many similar celebrations that took place, paying tribute to the Corps' 93<sup>rd</sup> established year.

"Navy leadership saw the need

to extend this dental service throughout the U.S. Navy. Starting in the 1890's, a series of bills was drawn up and introduced to Congress for the establishment of the Dental Corps. When Presley Rixley was the Navy Surgeon General, he established courses in elementary dentistry at the Navy Medical School he founded. Thanks to his persistence, his support and his connections, Navy dentistry finally became a reality in August 1912," said Andre Sobocinski, Office of the Historian, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

As the Dental Corps is currently undergoing an integration of the hospital corpsmen and dental technician ratings.

"When you went to corpsmen school, you could receive radiation

training or lab technician training, Now Dental Technician will become another sub-specialty under the corpsman field," said Fischer.

Dental Corps officers now have the ability to hold leadership positions that were not available to them before. This further incorporates the Dental Corps into the daily functions of Navy Medicine.

"We are actually more like the other medical corps than ever before. The reason for integrating is for the improvement of efficiency and to eliminate redundancies," said Fischer. "Our mission remains to provide world class dental care to our Sailors and Marines."



**TAWI TAWI, Philippines** - U.S. Navy Lt. Jaime Barrata, a general medical officer assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Tarawa (LHA 1), checks a Batu-Batu native for a possible upper respiratory infection. The young boy was one of more than 1,300 patients treated by Expeditionary Strike Group One (ESG-1) medical personnel in the small village of Batu-Batu in the southern Philippine island of Tawi Tawi. ESG-1 teamed with the Armed Forces of the Philippines and civilian relief organizations to provide medical, dental and engineering assistance to the area. *U.S. Navy photo by Chief Journalist Gabe Puella*

## Surgical Technicians Students put Medical Lessons Learned into Practice

By Lt. j.g. Janette Arencibia, Naval School of Health Sciences

**SAN DIEGO, Calif.** - Naval Medicine Operational Institute (NOMI) in Pensacola, Fla., launched the new Medical Deployer Web page on Navy Knowledge Online (NKO). It's a one stop shop that supplies vital information on trauma training and has several topics relating directly to deployments including some first hand experiences in a war zone.

Cmdr. Kurk Rogers, director of Surgical Specialty Schools, learned of the Medical Deployer portal during his marketing team's research of NKO. Nearly half of all graduating surgical technicians are routinely assigned to deployable units. Rogers strongly believed it was critical to introduce the Medical Deployer page to his students.

"Before the Medical Deployer Web page briefings, my students had a vague impression of how much preparation and education is required to ensure Force Health Protection in the operational envi-

ronment," said Rogers. "Students who used the Medical Deployer portal were better prepared for the critical role they play to support military members."

"Proactively briefing students on the Medical Deployer portal provides timely and accurate resources that are critical in assuring the most operationally prepared surgical technicians", said Capt. W. Thomas Nunns, Naval School of Health Sciences commanding officer.

The Medical Deployer page provides "Just in Time" training and important documents based on core requirements that were identified for Navy Medicine expeditionary training and mapped to fit the Fleet and Marine Corps requirements. To visit the Medical Deployer page, log onto NKO at [www.nko.navy.mil/portal/splash/index.isp](http://www.nko.navy.mil/portal/splash/index.isp). Go to the Force Health Protection page under "Learning Centers", and click on Medical Deployer on the left side of the screen.

## USS Boxer Provides Humanitarian, Medical Relief

### From USS Boxer Public Affairs

**ABOARD USS BOXER** - The amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4), commanded by Capt. Thomas J. Culora, visited the Marshall Islands Aug. 25-29 conducting a community outreach program on the island of Majuro, home to more than 30,000 people.

The visit gave the more than 1,200 Sailors and Marines embarked aboard the San Diego-based ship a chance to experience Marshallese culture, as well as provide the Marshallese some much-needed assistance in the form of medical aid, education, construction, and repairs to schools and other buildings.

"This visit gave Boxer's crew the opportunity to demonstrate their goodwill to people," said Lt. Johan Baik, one of Boxer's two chaplains. "Being goodwill ambassadors for our nation is important. Through visits like this, we are able to con-

tribute to other nations and societies."

Boxer has one of the largest and most capable hospitals aboard any U.S. ship, second only to the naval hospital ships, USNS Mercy (T-AH 19) and USNS Comfort (T-AH 20). With advanced medical capabilities and a well-trained medical staff of more than 30 doctors, nurses and corpsmen, Boxer is well suited for providing an array of medical aid, from surgeries to fighting the common cold.

"We did not want to bring only medical aid to the people of Majuro," said Lt. Cmdr. David Gallus, officer in charge of the Boxer-embarked Fleet Surgical Team 5. "We wanted to educate them on healthy ways to live and also provide medical care where it is needed."

Fleet Surgical Team 5 is providing medical augmentation during Boxer's current deployment.

Along with providing medical

care and education, Boxer crew members helped out in other ways, such as repairing essential medical equipment at the local hospital, repairing dilapidated schoolrooms and providing electrical rewiring in buildings. Some Sailors spent their time reading to the children of the Armij Aelon Kein, or "people of the islands."

"As Americans, we have to show our nation cares, and as ambassadors, we can bring that caring right to their doorstep," said Intelligence Specialist 2nd Class Adrian Medina. "Hopefully, we left behind a lasting impression on the communities of Majuro by providing them with the aid needed in their area."

Boxer is the fourth of seven ships in the Wasp class of large deck amphibious assault ships and is capable of performing a multitude of missions in support of national interests. The "Golden Gator" is scheduled to return to its homeport in September.

## Purple Heart continued...

*(Continued from page 1)*

unit was hit by an explosion and engaged in a 14-hour gunfight, resulting in Marine casualties and injuries, including Bryant.

"I was in the middle of the patrol behind the first fire team when we came upon a damaged brick wall. We didn't know it, but there was an improvised explosive device (IED) behind the wall," Bryant explained. "As we reached the wall, the IED detonated and the first fire team disappeared in a blanket of smoke. After the dust settled, I ran to the aid of my fellow Marines to help with their wounds and assist with medical evacuations."

Only hours later, after reporting to his senior corpsman, did Bryant realize that he had suffered shrapnel wounds.

"I saw dried blood covering my right hand," he recounted. "I raised my sleeve and found where I was hit with shrapnel. I didn't really notice it right away. I was concerned with taking care of my Marines."

Bryant is stationed at Naval Hospital Pensacola's Family Practice Clinic. He is gearing up for another possible deployment in September.

There are more than 100 Sailors, including doctors, surgeons, nurses and corpsmen, currently deployed from the command. Additional staff members are gearing up for deployments to such areas as Iraq, Kuwait and Eastern Europe.



**PENSACOLA, Fla.** - Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Mike Mullen congratulates Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Johnathan D. Bryant after awarding him the Purple Heart during an all-hands call at the Naval Aviation Memorial Chapel on board Naval Air Station Pensacola. U.S. Navy photo by Journalist 1st Class Russell C. Tafuri



## Navies Provide Medical, Dental Care in Philippines

By Journalist 2nd Class (SW) Brian P. Biller, USS Harpers Ferry Public Affairs

**SAN NARCISO, Philippines** - Medical and dental professionals from USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49) and the staff of Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific treated more than 300 patients during a civic action project Aug. 18.

Local residents lined up for hours at the Doce Martires Elementary school for an opportunity to receive the free, routine medical and dental care being offered by the U.S. and Philippine navies as part of the Philippines phase of exercise Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT).

This was the fourth day of a scheduled six days of medical and dental civic action projects at various locations in the vicinity of Subic Bay during CARAT Philippines.

"I thought it was a great experience. I've never done anything like

this before," said Lt. Adrian F. LePendou, Harpers Ferry dentist. He added that he was surprised at what he was able to do without the normal, more clinical lighting he was used to and some of his normal surgical tools. "It helped me figure out what my capabilities are with such limitations," he added.

Harpers Ferry doctor Lt. Erik J. Modlo said patients received examinations, medications, and care that were either routinely unavailable to them or unaffordable.

"Overall it was a success," said Modlo. "Being able to bring the kind of services we did from the dental/medical side to the Philippine people...the smiles were reward enough for me."

CARAT is a regularly scheduled annual series of bilateral military exercises between the U.S. and several Southeast Asian nations designed to enhance interoperability of the respective sea services.



**SAN NARCISO, Philippines** - U.S. Navy dentist, Lt. Adrian F. LePendou and Dental Technician 3rd Class Cassandra M. Her-ring, treat a patient during a combined medical and dental civic action project as part of the Philippines phase of Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) 2005. U.S. Navy photo by Journalist 2nd Class Brian P. Biller

## Mobile Dental Van Helps Ensure Marine Readiness

By Cpl. Sara A. Carter, Marine Corps Base Quantico

**MARINE CORPS BASE QUANTICO, Va.** - Throughout August, Marine Corps Base Quantico's Naval Health/Dental Clinic (NHDC), along with a mobile dental clinic from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., visited individual units on base. The clinic offered examinations to Marines on the class four dental list to ensure Marines meet medical readiness standards for deployment.

The white van, which travels from base to base along the east coast, has all the capabilities of a dental clinic, including an x-ray machine and all of the instruments needed to perform dental work. It can accommodate two patients at a time.

"These vans were made to help field support," said Dental Technician Nitin Mcadory. "At places like Camp Lejeune, where they conduct a lot of field operations, we can go to the field where they are."

According to Mcadory, the vehicles were made in 1998 and there are six vans Navy-wide. Three are located in Camp Lejeune, and three are located in Camp Pendleton, Calif.

"We can do everything here that we can do at the clinic," said Mcadory.

Dr. Lorna Brunhofer, a dentist at the NHDC, said this is her first experience working in a mobile dental van.

"Right now, all we are doing is examining people,"

said Brunhofer. "We write down all of the things we see and the Marines go to the dental clinic for the work to be done."

Being on a class four list means a Marine has not been examined by a dentist or had their teeth cleaned in more than a year. Having a class four classification makes a Marine undeployable, said Mcadory.

Approximately 120 Marines were examined during a three-week time frame, said Mcadory.

For some Marines it was convenient to walk out of their office building and go to the mobile dental van instead of going to the dental clinic.

"This is extremely convenient," said Staff Sgt. Ollier Hembrick, base operations and training administrative chief. "You can't get any better than this."

This is the first time Hembrick and others have seen the mobile dental van come to Quantico.

Coordination is key to making the van's visit to the base a success.

"You have to really coordinate the people you are going to see and the places you are going to go," said Brunhofer. "If it is coordinated carefully this works really well. I am presently surprised how well this worked."

The mobile dental van helped Quantico Marines work toward their mission -- to promote readiness.

"This was a way to bring readiness to the base," said Mcadory. "People aren't coming to us so we were going to them."

## International Troop Team Brings Iraqi Clinics Hope

By Cpl. Mike Escobar, 2nd Marine Division

**FALLUJAH, Iraq** - They were a squad of armed Marines, a detachment of Iraqi troops, a handful of soldiers and a lone Navy doctor, loaded down with heavy green crates and traveling as a pack during the mid-morning hours.

To themselves, they were simply service members on a routine mission here, but to several children and overworked doctors in Fallujah, they were the harbingers of hope.

The joint Iraqi and U.S. troops were conducting Operation Medical Mentoring the morning of Aug. 25. Their goal: to aid the Iraqi government in healing the country's still-broken medical system by supplying northern Fallujah's clinics.

Marines from Company B, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment; Iraqi soldiers and other military personnel distributed supplies such as children's cough suppressants,

blood pressure regulating medications, and as many as 100,000 Tylenol tablets to the city's Al-Jolan Primary Health Care Center and Dur al-Sement clinic.

"The drugs we handed out were all brand new, donated by pharmaceutical companies and caring citizens in the U.S.," said Navy Lt. Jared Vogler, 1st Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment's medical officer.

"The Iraqi Security Force brought their own doctor and helped provide security during the giveaway," he said. "These types of missions help foster positive interaction between them and local people."

One of the biggest concerns local doctors continued voicing was ambulance movement during nighttime hours. Terrorists use ambulances to disguise their intentions. The movement of ambulances during night hours require strict coordination with both drivers and security forces on edge.

Although they are often incon-

venient by these rules, local doctors acknowledged their importance and remained thankful to the Iraqi and American Security Forces for performing missions such as Medical Mentoring.

"These medications will help us take care of the people, because sometimes, our clinic can see as many as 300 patients in one day," said Dr. Haytham Khaleef, Al-Jolan Primary Health Care Center's manager. "We can never have enough medication in this downtown Fallujah clinic, so it's wonderful to get help from the Iraqi and U.S. forces."

As the troops handed out life-saving supplies to the clinics and stuffed animals to the children outside, Vogler reported feeling a sense of accomplishment.

"It's great to see all the people smiling and happy because of something we helped do," he stated. "Ultimately, we're all trying to do what's best for the people of Fallujah."

## Navy Gulfport Shelter Survives Katrina

By Rod Duren, Public Affairs, Naval Hospital Pensacola, Fla.

**PENSACOLA, Fla.**—"Everybody's fine, but tired," said Lt. Cmdr. Matt Grimes emerging from the Navy's hurricane shelter aboard the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport, Miss., the afternoon of Aug. 29.

More than 1,300 military and

local civilians were gathered together overnight and into the early morning hours in a Seabee heavy-equipment warehouse-turned-shelter as Hurricane Katrina was bearing down on the northern Gulf of Mexico coastline.

Grimes, the officer in charge of the Naval Branch Health Clinic at Gulfport, and 14 other members of his medical, nursing and dental personnel were 'hunkered-down' with people ranging from 1-to-90 year-olds onboard the base shelter to "provide medical support through the duration," said Captain Charles Harris, director of branch clinics at Gulfport's parent command at Naval Hospital Pensacola, Fla.

"Keep the troops and that positive attitude up," encouraged Harris.

"We're all okay, but it's pretty bad," said Grimes. There was dam-

age to most buildings he could physically see from outside the shelter, but the one he was most concerned about was out of eye-shot – the branch health clinic.

"We'll assess the clinic site probably as early as Tuesday, Aug. 30 or when the base says it is okay to return," said Grimes. Also standing by to assist will be Naval Hospital Pensacola's Environmental Health Officer, Lt. Cmdr. Wayne Chardon.

Reports from the area indicate at least a six-to-nine foot storm surge from the Gulf of Mexico across the city's major highway nearest the base.

Naval Hospital Pensacola is the parent command of 12 branch health clinics in four states. Before the day was done Monday, Aug. 29, seven had been affected by Hurricane Katrina.



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